



## Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

**Congresswoman Betty McCollum**

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

### **Hot News!**

#### **McCollum Visits with Children and Parents**

This week Rep. Betty McCollum joined children, parents and teachers for parent orientation at the Ruth Benner Head Start Center in Saint Paul. The visit highlighted the critical preventive and public health aspects of Head Start, which would be eliminated under the House Republican Head Start Reauthorization bill.

Orientation days are designed to give parents the opportunity to ask questions about the screenings and health services offered to children through Head Start. School districts, public health nurses and the Children's Dental Network were present as well to answer parents' questions about these health services.

"Our children need and deserve a healthy start—and Head Start ensures our children receive at least one nutritious meal everyday and access to a basic health care screening," said McCollum.

Head Start is successful in helping low-income preschool aged children arrive at school ready to learn by providing comprehensive services, including early education, health, nutrition and social services.

Despite enjoying wide bipartisan support, Republicans have politicized Head Start —putting our children at risk. By only one vote, Republicans forced through changes that narrow Head Start and make it into a literacy program, eliminating its comprehensive focus which now includes health screenings and child nutrition.

McCollum favors a comprehensive program for children and families that include education, health and social services to ensure a healthy start.

"We need to put the interest of children and families ahead of partisanship to ensure every preschooler has an opportunity to be successful," McCollum concluded.

Last year Head Start programs in Minnesota served over 16,000 children - less than half of the children who were eligible.



*Rep. Betty McCollum discussed the importance of child nutrition with parents and children during her visit to the Ruth Benner Head Start Center.*

#### **McCollum Shows Support for AmeriCorps**

Rep. Betty McCollum participated in an unprecedented 100-hour, around-the-clock event where hundreds of people testified about the value and impact of AmeriCorps and the need for emergency funding for AmeriCorps success.

McCollum facilitated a listening session with community members earlier this year to discuss the funding cuts to AmeriCorps and detailed their stories in her testimony stating that, "AmeriCorps needs full investment to deliver services to communities who rely on partnerships with AmeriCorps volunteers."

This bipartisan event united many voices in support of AmeriCorps to build awareness of the programs importance. For ten years AmeriCorps has been making a powerful difference in the lives of Americans and the nation's communities. More than 350,000 Americans have served in AmeriCorps, teaching at-risk children to read, building housing for homeless families, protecting our natural environment, and organizing tens of thousands of volunteers for service.

**Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)**

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